

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following new paragraph on page 1 immediately after the title.

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/577,982 filed on May 25, 2000, now having issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,656,189, the entire contents of which are expressly incorporated herein by reference.--

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 8, line 20 and ending at page 9, line 11 with the following amended paragraph.

--After the drill bit 50 is drilled through the nail hole 62, the head 51 of the drill bit 50 is disconnected from the power drill (not shown), and the aiming guide, including the protection sleeve 20 and drill sleeve 40, is lifted up, leaving drill bit 50 in place in the bone 60 and nail 61. The drill sleeve 40 is removed from the protection sleeve 20 and replaced with the trocar 30. As shown in FIG. 8, the aiming guide is then turned 180 degrees about the longitudinal axis of the protection sleeve 20, and the head portion 51 of the drill bit 50 is inserted through the small hole 12 in end portion 11 (or through the small hole 8, if end portion 4 is being used instead). The distance between the axes of the threaded hole 10 and the small hole 12 in end portion 11 (like the distance between small hole 8 and threaded hole 9 in end portion 4) is equal to the distance between the nail holes 62 and 63. Thus, by reversing the handle 1 and inserting the head 51 of the drill bit 50 into the small hole 12, the protection sleeve 20 and trocar 30 are automatically closely aligned with the second hole 63 of the nail 61. The protection sleeve 20 and trocar 30 can then be precisely aligned with the nail hole 63 using the X-ray images of their radiopaque tips 23 and 33, respectively, in the manner described above. The trocar is used to remove the soft tissue above the nail hole 63, after which the trocar 30 is removed and replaced by the drill sleeve 40 and a second drill bit 80 having a drill tip 83. The concentric circular images cast by the second drill bit 80 and the radiopaque tip 23 of protection sleeve 20 are then used to precisely align the second drill

bit 80 with the nail hole 63, in the same manner as described above. The second drill bit 80 is then accurately drilled through the second nail hole 63 and the surrounding bone material 60. The second drill bit 80 and drill sleeve 40 are removed, and a locking screw (not shown) is inserted through the protection sleeve 20 and screwed through the bone 60 and second nail hole 63 to secure the nail 61 to the bone 60. The aiming guide and protection sleeve 20 are then repositioned over the first drill bit 50, which is still located in the bone 60. The first drill bit 50 is then removed, and a second locking screw (not shown) is inserted through the protection sleeve 20 and screwed through the bone 60 and the first nail hole 62 to secure the nail 61 to the bone 60.--